

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This is observed throughout the world from 18 to 25 January. The theme this year, chosen by the churches of Brazil, is ***The well is deep*** based on John chapter 4.

Here in Hitchin, we will mark the week in various ways:

Sundays 18 & 25 January: morning pulpit exchanges

Sunday 18 January - 6.30pm: United Service at Walsworth Road Baptist Church, including the induction of the Rev John Hardaker of Christchurch as Chair of Churches Together in Hitchin

Tuesday 20 January - 7.45pm: Ladies' United Service at St Faith's

Sunday 25 January - 6.30 pm: Taizé Service at St Mark's

All are welcome at any of the above. More information from John Richardson 01462 435595. Material for the Week, including prayers, readings and reflections, can be found on the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland website - www.ctbi.org.uk

Please send notices for inclusion in this weekly sheet by 7pm Wed to deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk or ring Deirdre on 456184

St Mark's extends a warm welcome to newcomers.
If you are new here, do introduce yourself to Jane, our Vicar, who will be at the back of the church at the end of the service.

How to contact us

While a few telephone numbers of church members may be included in this web version of the notice sheet, most contact details for events are published only in the hard copy, available in church. If you have no access to this, please contact Deirdre Parr on 01462 456184 or e-mail deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

St Mark's Church



A member of Churches Together in Hitchin

4 January 2015

The Epiphany

Services today

8.00am	Holy Communion (p29 in folder)
10.00am	Holy Communion (p15 in folder)

For prayer:

We pray for the children and young people of St Mark's as they begin a new term at school and are involved in our Sunday School, youth groups and uniformed organisations.

Churches Together in Hitchin Prayer Link

On this first Sunday of the year, we pray for Walsworth Road Baptist Church as they commission those recently appointed to positions of responsibility in their church and for Our Lady's Roman Catholic Church as they consider again their Mission to their parish and the wider community.

PLEASE TAKE THESE NOTICES HOME WITH YOU

If you would like to receive this notice sheet via email in future, please email deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

website: www.stmarks-hitchin.org.uk



Readings for today

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Hymns for 10.00am

2 CP	Angels from the realms of glory
3 CP	As with gladness men of old
43 CP	We three kings of Orient are
36 CP	See him lying on a bed of straw
24 CP	Lo! he comes with clouds descending

Diary for the week beginning Monday 5 January

Tues 6	8.00pm	Standing Committee
Wed 7	9.15am	Morning Prayer
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sat 10	9.45am	Exploring Christianity

Next Sunday, 11 January – Baptism of Christ

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion

Notices

The Covenant Prayer

After communion today, we shall be using the Covenant prayer on the inside cover of the carol book. The tradition of renewing our Covenant with God at the beginning of a new year goes back to the 17th century and was particularly taken up by the Methodists. The prayer we are using today is the traditional Methodist form now used in churches of all denominations throughout the world.

Prayer Tree

As we begin a new year, we are altering how we use our Prayer Tree. Firstly, in addition to the green leaves, there will soon be some autumn-coloured leaves on which you are invited to write prayers of thanks. Secondly, on the fourth Sunday of each month all leaves on the Prayer Tree will be brought up during the offertory and offered to God. If you have placed a prayer on the Prayer Tree which is ongoing past the fourth Sunday of the month, then feel very free to write a fresh leaf and place it on the tree.

Project Website

We are beginning the process of updating our church website. One of the major pieces of work which we would like to do is to create a much larger pictorial representation of our church life on the website. This will involve taking lots of photos, preferably with people in them. Therefore, between now and Easter, we will be taking photos in some of the services, during regular activities and at events. We hope that you'll help us in this task. We are aware that not everyone may want their picture to appear on the website, or indeed on our *Facebook* page, (we'll avoid close-ups unless we have particular permission), and, therefore, if you do not want yourself included in a picture that goes onto the website or *Facebook*, please indicate this on the sheet at the back of church. When we come to edit and select the photos for inclusion on the website after Easter, we will make sure that anyone who has indicated that they do not want their picture included is not in any of the pictures used. If your name is not on the list, we will assume you are happy to be in any of the photos. We are also asking people who run groups to have a look at their entry on the website and to update it if necessary, and, maybe, to provide a photo or two to go with the entry. Thank you for your co-operation and help.